

of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104^{th} congress, first session

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1995

No. 70

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chaplain will now deliver the opening prayer.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this land, Lord of our personal lives, and source of unity in the midst of diversity, enable us to show the true nature of loyalty to our Nation, the Office of the President, the Constitution, and our future. Help us to exemplify how to communicate convictions without censure of those who may not fully agree with us. Keep us from almighty tone and tenor. Free us from the false assumption that we ever have a corner on all the truth. Unsettle any pious posturing that pretends that we alone can speak for You.

You created us in Your image. Help us never to return the compliment. Break the cycle of judgment, categorization, and condemnation so prevalent in our land. Forgive us when we presume Your authority by setting up ourselves as judges of the worth of those who disagree with us.

At the same time, Lord, we know that You have not called us to flabby indulgence when it comes to seeking truth. Nor do You encourage us to buy into our age of appeasement and tolerance where everything is relative and there are no absolutes. What You do ask is that we humbly seek what is Your best for our Nation and work to achieve that together. To this goal we commit this day. In Your powerful name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. This morning the leader time has been

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, at 12 noon today, we will resume consideration of H.R. 956, the product liability bill. There will be no rollcall votes during the session today. However, under the unanimous-consent agreement, medical malpractice amendments to the product liability bill must be offered and debated today. Any votes ordered on those amendments will be stacked to begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

MEASURE READ THE SECOND TIME-S. 735

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due to be read for a second time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second

The bill was read for the second time. Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, observing that no Senator is seeking to speak at this particular moment, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

PREŜIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THOMAS pertaining to the introduction of S. 738 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE **AMENDMENT**

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I would like to address for a few minutes the legislation which will be pending very shortly today, and specifically the amendment relating to medical malpractice that is before Members.

I speak, of course, of the legislation to reform our product liability tort system and the amendment which would also reform the medical malpractice component of that civil tort litigation system.

Some have said that we have, in effect, a tort tax in this country, a tax on all citizens by virtue of the increased costs of the products and the services, and in particular, I am speaking of medical services, that result from the fact that our tort system has become very expensive.

The costs of operating that system have had to be folded into the costs of the products and the costs of the services in order to pay for the liability insurance, the lawyers' fees and the other expenses that fund this tort system of ours. That tort tax ends up being a tax on all Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

